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A list of the more common native and naturalized plants of South Carolina. In South Carolina Resources and Population, Institutions and Industries. Published by the State Board of Agriculture. Pp. 312–359. Charleston, 1883.

Also, short notices in *Torrey Bulletin*, vi, 88; ix, 23, 128 and 140; xi, 132. A paper on edible mushrooms of this country read before the Aiken Vine-growing and Hort. Ass. about 1862–63; was printed in the Charleston newspapers of the day. W. G. Farlow.

EDITORIAL.

Since the consolidation of the national surveys the government has done nothing for botanical exploration. Millions have been spent in increasing our knowledge of the other riches of our domain, but the plants have been left to private enterprise. It has been claimed that the botanical exploration of this country has been well-nigh completed, but that can only be said by those ignorant of the facts. What botanist does not know that a collector in a single season's work still brings back with him his harvest of new species and increased knowledge of the old? Hundreds of new species are being described yearly in this country. A single contribution, now on our table, describes 160 new species. In the face of all this wealth of undiscovered material, in view of the fact that geology, anthropology, etc., are receiving abundant aid, why does botany lack the fostering care of government appropriation? Money is appropriated for economic botany, but our plea is for the botany of North America. There are many localities not reached by collectors, or reached at such expense of time and labor that but scanty collections are made. The country is settled enough, and botanical interest is so diffused, that exploration could be well parceled out and thoroughly done. The old days of government exploration, when the botanist was compelled to keep pace with a constantly moving pack train, and snatch what he could in his hasty march, are passed, and regions can now be "worked up" in a thoroughly systematic way. The congressional committees on agriculture should be besieged by the botanists of this country to grant an appropriation for botanical exploration, to be under the direction of the already appointed botanical agency, the Department of Agriculture. The herbarium of that department should be enriched by the results of such exploration, until the North American flora is completely represented in our national collection. Such a provision would not only enrich the herbarium of the Department of Agriculture, but all of our larger herbaria, where North American plants are being critically studied. The good feeling of American botanists is such that the possessions of one are the common property of all. Collectors should be sent to unknown or difficult localities to work throughout the season; local botanists in interesting regions should be employed to thoroughly explore their surroundings; specialists should be sent during the summer to study certain problems. In short, a few thousand dollars from an overflowing treasury could be made to yield an ample return in our better knowledge of one of the noblest and (in a public way) most neglected sciences.

OPEN LETTERS.

A Query.

Can any of the readers of the GAZETTE say whether the spores of Marsilia grown in the United States germinate readily? Having made several unsuccessful attempts last winter to grow the spores, I was informed by Professor Pfeffer that it is difficult to germinate spores grown in Germany, and that all accounts hitherto published have been made from spores imported from Australia. It would be interesting to know whether the same difficulty is met in the United States, and if so, what is the cause. D. H. CAMPBELL.

Tübingen, July, 1887.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IN THE *Journal of Botany* for June Mr. Arthur Bennett presents a revision of the Australian species of Potamogeton, describing one new species.

THE SECOND EDITION of Strasburger's *Botanisches Practicum* has appeared in Germany.

Dr. W. ZOPF has been made Professor-extraordinary of Botany in the University of Halle.

Dr. G. BERTHOLD has been called to the professorship of Botany in the University of Göttingen.

SCARCELY more than a year has passed since the appearance of de Bary's *Vorlesungen über Bacterien,* yet a second and revised edition has been issued by Engelmann.

MR. ROBERT HESSLER, of Connersville, Ind., finds Gaura coccinea growing along the C., H. & I. R. R. near that place. His plant was very bushy and about fifteen inches high.

THE *West American Scientist* for June has an interesting article on the "Oaks of Southern and Lower California" by the editor. It is accompanied by a photograph of live-oaks.

DR. BYRON D. HALSTED, in *Agricultural Science,* has published a paper on the germination of cucurbitaceous plants.

PROF. L. H. BAILEY, JR., of Michigan Agricultural College, wants specimens from all parts of the country of Carex grisea (especially from the south and west), C. triceps, C. arctata, and C. retrocurva.